

in the State. The above organizations grew out of the war itself, but also organizations such as women's clubs, local churches, the Masons, chambers of commerce, etc., added to their normal activities some form of war work. Accurate reports of this work are sought.

(2) Documents of the time that preserve the life, color, feelings, and tone of the war.

They exist in four great classes. (a) Printed matter, such as books, newspapers, sermons, addresses, etc.; (b) Manuscripts, such as letters, diaries, minutes of proceedings, reports, etc; (c) Pictures, such as photographs of people, places, and events, posters of all sorts, maps, sketches, etc.; (d) Mementoes, such as service flags, pennants, insignia, etc. Too much emphasis cannot be laid on the importance of preserving these sources. An examination of an great historical work will show how its author has depended on letters, posters, diaries, etc. There is probably no historical record more important than a letter, and certainly none so hard to obtain. People deem their letters both too commonplace and too personal to be of historical value. Herein they err, because the records of the most historical value are accurate, commonplace, personal, records of a time. People moreover hesitate to give their letters to a historian because of reluctance to subject their affairs and emotions to public scrutiny. They should remember, however, that in years to come these features of a letter fade out, while the document as a type of individual experience remains invaluable.

Documents given are arranged and filed, and those lent temporarily are copied and returned to the lenders.

In the process of this work every effort is made to give due recognition to the negro's participation in the war. Representatives for the negro race are being secured in each county, and the records pertaining to the North Carolina negro's participation in the war are filed in a special department.

Judged by results accomplished, the plan of the Historical Commission bids fair to succeed. Sixty-four counties have representatives at work gathering data for the white race, and sixty-four for the colored race. Of these counties, Guilford, Mecklenburg, Bertie, Bladen, Cumberland; Columbus, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hoke, Nash, Orange, Pasquotank, Richmond, Tyrrell, Wake, Warren, and Washington have not only active representatives at work, but also committees of citizens formed in associations for systematic canvass of all county sources of information. These associations are increasing. In a number of the counties the school teachers and the school children are giving valuable assistance, notably in Columbus. In some counties, notably Bladen and Bertie, definite work is progressing on a county history. The Daughters of the American Revolution, the North Carolina Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the American Legion are co-operating with the Historical Commission in compiling military records.

The official records which the Historical Commission must explore are of three classes. First, the national archives, in Washington. Several states have found it convenient to associate themselves in an organization for research and co-operation, called the National Association of State War History Organizations. The following are the charter members of this organization: Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and they are now endeavoring to bring all other states in the Union into this organization. Allowing for the time necessary to compile the records, materials needed from the archives of the national government are sure to be obtained. For instance, definite provisions have been made to secure the full records of the 83,000 North Carolina men who served in the army, the navy, or the marine corps.

The next class of records is that of the several state departments, the Council of Defense, the Food Administration, the Fuel Administration, the Department of Education, etc.

The last, and in many respects the most important, class of official records exists in the several counties of the state. The counties of the state presented in their war organization a type of the entire organization for war used by the national government. For instance, there was in each county a Council of Defense, a Food Administration, a Fuel Administration, a Local Exemption Board, a Red Cross Chapter, and so on.

The Historical Commission is meeting one of its severest tasks in securing reports from these county organizations. In the first place, they kept no accurate records. In the second place, they have for the most part